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FOOD SITUATION DETERIORATES IN HUNGARY;  
ABSENTEEISM HIGH IN INDUSTRY, MINING

The food situation has deteriorated to such an extent in Hungary that the government has difficulty maintaining work discipline. Absenteeism is highest in mining. Workers talk during working hours, take walks, and curse the government. In Budapest alone, during last month, 4,000 workers left their places of employment, without the approval of the plant manager. This means that they cannot obtain work in another government plant. The labor force has been shifting away from the most important branches of industry, mining, and construction.

Responsible executives are afraid to take action, because in these times of despair serious consequences might result. A similar situation exists in the provinces. Workers do not report for work. The main reason for this is the way in which wages due to the workers are calculated. Nobody understands the system. The work units and the arbitrarily determined work norms have caused complete confusion. Nobody knows how much he should work and how much he will be paid for work done. Fights, thefts, and deception are the order of the day. In the meantime, less and less work is being done. All spring farm work has been discontinued since the government issued its collection order. The farmers have realized that the government intends to take away even more agricultural products than last year. This would mean unequalled, permanent misery in rural Hungary.

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